

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for handling packet traffic in a data network comprising the steps of:
  - routing outgoing network layer packet traffic associated with a network layer connection from a selected source node to a local network accelerator associated with a node which is a source of the packet traffic for a destination node network, the local network accelerator running a proxy application that operates as a proxy for the node that is the source of the packet traffic;
  - receiving, at the proxy application, intercepted packet traffic;
  - opening two or more Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) transport layer end-to-end connections over at least one physical layer persistent connection between the local network accelerator and at least one remote network accelerator, at least one of the two or more TCP transport layer connections servicing the selected source node; and
  - transmitting processed packet traffic to the at least one remote network accelerator associated with [[a]] the destination node which is a destination of the packet traffic via at least one of the two or more TCP transport layer connections, wherein the remote network accelerator runs another proxy application operating as a proxy for the destination node.
2. (Previously presented) A method as in Claim 1 wherein a proxy to proxy protocol is employed to specify at least an original TCP transport protocol identifier, original address, and original ports of the nodes.
3. (Previously presented) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the proxy application uses a dictionary based compression algorithm is to decode the data prior to transmission.
4. (Original) A method as in Claim 3 wherein a Huffman coding algorithm is applied to compress the data.

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10. (Previously presented) A device as in Claim 6 wherein a proxy to proxy protocol is used to pass original source node and destination node information.

11. (Original) A device as in Claim 6 wherein a proxy to proxy protocol specifies an original protocol type for the packets.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for communicating a data stream between a source node and a destination node, comprising:

establishing a plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) transport layer connections between a first proxy application in communication with the source node and a second proxy application in communication with the destination node, wherein the plurality of TCP transport layer connections are provided between the first proxy application and the second proxy application over at least one physical layer connection;

enabling the first proxy application to provide forward the data stream from the source node to the destination node, wherein the data stream is provided over a first TCP transport layer client connection to the first proxy application, and wherein the first proxy application forwards the data stream over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections between the first proxy application and [[to]] the second proxy application; and

enabling the second proxy application to provide the data stream received over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections to the destination node over a second TCP transport layer client connection.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, further comprising:  
enabling the communication of the data stream to the destination node to appear to the source node as occurring directly over the first TCP transport layer client connection; and

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enabling communication with the source node to appear to the destination node as occurring directly over the second TCP transport layer `client` connection.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein enabling the first proxy application to receive the data stream for the destination node, further comprises enabling the first proxy application to spoof an address associated with the source node for the first TCP transport layer client connection.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein enabling the second proxy application to provide the data stream to the destination node, further comprises enabling the second proxy application to spoof at least another address associated with the destination node for the second TCP transport layer client connection.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising if the destination node is remote to the source node, providing the data stream to the first proxy application over a socket interface.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein if is a plurality of data streams are provided over one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections, enabling the first proxy application to employ a dictionary based compression algorithm on at least a portion of at least one data stream that is communicated to the second proxy application.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising communicating the data stream over a plurality of physical layer connections, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections are provided over each of the plurality of physical layer connections.

20. (Currently amended) A system for enabling communication of a data stream between a source node and a destination node, comprising:

- a first proxy application in communication with the source node;
- a second proxy application in communication with the destination node,
- a plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) transport layer connections between the first proxy application and the second proxy application, wherein the plurality of TCP transport layer connections are provided between the first proxy application and the second proxy application over at least one physical layer connection;
- a first TCP transport layer client connection that enables the first proxy application to forward the data stream from the source node to the destination node, wherein the first proxy application forwards the data stream over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections to the second proxy application; and
- a second TCP transport layer client connection that enables the second proxy application to communicate the data stream received over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections to the destination node.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20, further comprising:  
enabling the communication of the data stream to the destination node to appear to the  
source node as occurring directly over the first TCP transport layer client connection; and  
enabling communication of the data stream from the source node to appear to the  
destination node as occurring directly over the second TCP transport layer client connection.

22. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 20, further comprising if the destination node is remote to the source node, providing the data stream to the first proxy application over a socket interface.

23. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20, if a plurality of data streams are provided over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections, enabling the first

proxy application to employ a dictionary based compression algorithm on at least a portion of at least one data stream that is communicated to the second proxy application.

24. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 20, further comprising communicating the data stream over a plurality of physical layer connections, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections are provided over each of the plurality of physical layer connections.

25. (Currently amended) A network device for enabling communication of a data stream between a source node and a destination node, comprising:

a memory for storing data,

a processor for executing the stored data, wherein the execution of the stored data enables actions, including:

enabling establishment of a plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) transport layer connections between a first proxy application in communication with the source node and a second proxy application in communication with the destination node, wherein the plurality of TCP transport layer connections are provided between the first proxy application and the second proxy application over at least one physical layer connection;

enabling the first proxy application to receive the data stream for the destination node from the source node over a first TCP transport layer client connection, wherein the first proxy application forwards the data stream over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections to the second proxy application; and

enabling the second proxy application to provide the data stream received over the plurality of TCP transport layer connections to the destination node over a second TCP transport layer client connection.

26. (Currently amended) The network device of Claim 25, further comprising:  
enabling the communication of the data stream to the destination node to appear to the  
source node as occurring directly over the first TCP transport layer client connection; and

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enabling communication of the data stream from the source node to appear to the destination node as occurring directly over the second TCP transport layer client connection.

27. (Previously presented) The network device of Claim 25, further comprising if the destination node is remote to the source node, providing the data stream to the first proxy application over a socket interface.

28. (Currently amended) The network device of Claim 25, if a plurality of data streams are provided over at least one of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections, enabling the first proxy application to employ a dictionary based compression algorithm on at least a portion of at least one data stream that is communicated to the other proxy application.

29. (Previously presented) The network device of Claim 25, further comprising communicating the data stream over a plurality of physical layer connections, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of TCP transport layer connections are provided over each of the plurality of physical layer connections.